

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SY-04 SCCT-01 EB-07 FAA-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 562

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

FHFRAAB/CINCUSAFAE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 390

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFAE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: LORENZ KIDNAPPING: UK AND FRENCH POSITIONS ON PROVISION OF

AIRCRAFT

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1. AT MEETING WITH ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS 1900

MARCH 1, HERZ NOTED THAT SENAT PURSUING POSSIBILITY OF CHARTER WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS AND WANTED TO HAVE ASSURANCE OF UK GOVT THAT IT WOULD PERMIT BA OR TOTHER UK FLAG CARRIER TO TAKE ON ASSIGNMENT. BRITISH LIAISON OFFICER SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE SUCH ASSURANCE BUT WOULD CHECK IT OUT. HERZ SAID IT IMPORTANT FOR SENAT TO KNOW WHETHER ALLIES WILL PERMIT ANY ALLIED AIRCRAFT TO UNDERTAKE CHARTER, PARTICULARLY IF NOT CURRENTLY LICENSED FOR BERLIN OPERATIONS. HE ASKED FOR THIS INFO BY NEXT MEETING WITH LIAISON OFFICERS, 2300 MARCH 1.

2. HERZ STRESSED THAT A CHARTER BOUND FOR DESTINATION OF KIDNAPPERS' CHOICE, PARTICULARLY IF A BOEING 707, IS MUCH TO BE PREFERRED TO ALLIED OFFER (WHICH MINISTERS HAD CONVEYED TO GOVMAYOR EARLIER IN AFTERNOON) TO PROVIDE PLANE TO FLY B-M PEOPLE ONLY AS FAR AS FRG. HE NOTED THAT MOST RECENT LETTER OF KIDNAPPERS (REFTEL) STATED THAT UNLESS DEMANDS ARE COMPLETELY FULFILLED BY 0900 MARCH 3, LORENZ WOULD BE KILLED.

3. AT MEETING OF ALLIED MINISTERS MID-AFTERNOON, UK MINISTER HAD SAID BRITISH WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY UK-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT TO UNDERTAKE B-M CHARTER. BEFORE BRITISH OFFICER HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS UK POSITION AT 2300 MEETING WITH HERTZ, HOWEVER, LATTER SAID FRG EMB LONDON HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UK MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND BRITISH SUB-CHARTER MAY BECOME AVAILABLE AFTER ALL. CURRENT BRITISH POSITION AS DECRIBED BY HERZ IS THAT IF A PRIVATE COMPANY WISHES TO PRESENT A PROPOSAL, UK GOVT WILL NOT STAND IN WAY.

4. FRENCH POSITION IS THAT THEY WILLING PROVIDE AIRCRAFT FOR GETAWAY FROM BERLIN BECAUSE OF ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BERLIN, BUT BELIEVE THAT SINCE RESPONSIBILITY CEASES IN FRG, FRENCH PLANE CAN GO CONFIDENTIAL

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NO FURTHER. CONSEQUENTLY, FRENCH WILLING PROVIDE ANY ONE OF THREE AIRCRAFT (YSTERE 20,TTRANSALL C-160, OR NORD 220) WHOSE RANGE CONSIDERABLY SHORTER THAN 707'S DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TO BE TRANSPORTED.GEORGE

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